

OUTDOOR EDUCATION FUNDING WINDOW

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT Heritage Grant Outdoor Education (OE) Proposal's – Eligibility CRITERIA

August 3, 2016

OUTDOOR EDUCATION (OE) grants are a subset of the larger Environmental Education program. OE refers to projects and activities that provide a meaningful outdoor educational experience by developing awareness, appreciation and stewardship of Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitats that benefits Arizona students.

The intent of **OE** grants is to fund projects that provide a meaningful outdoor, wildlife-focused educational experience for students while giving the greatest return for the Heritage funds invested consistent with the eligibility criteria listed below. Grant Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals to cover the costs associated with field trips to an area important to local wildlife.

For **2017** there is **\$16,000** available to support **OE grant proposals**. Grant applicants can request from **\$500 to \$2,500** within this sub-category. Proposals can be used to cover **transportation** associated costs, **substitute teacher** costs incurred during the field trip activity; and any **resource** costs necessary to successfully carryout the activities. These resources might include binoculars, field guides, clipboards, dataloggers, etc. Funds **cannot be used** for entrance fees, food, drink, or other related costs.

A field trip itinerary with proposed field-trip date/times **MUST also be included** with the grant proposal and must detail the activities and the anticipated number of student participants.

OE Grant Award Recipients. The Department will evaluate and score all eligible OE proposals received, and recommend OE grant recipients by **December, 2016**. The Department will initiate a Grant Agreement for all OE grant award recipients. This agreement must be signed by an authorized signatory representing the recipient and the Department Director which establishes the grant effective date. **OE grant award recipients will have one year from the grant effective date to plan, execute and complete the field-trip and any supporting activities.** Once the grant effective date is established, Grant recipients can request OE grant award funding immediately. OE awarded funds can then be used to support grant awarded activities within the applicable **Spring-2017** and/or **Fall-2018** school semesters.

OE proposals **must** meet **one or more** of the **Eligibility CRITERIA** listed below:

CRITERION-1: Arizona Outdoor, Nature-Based Field-Trip Experience

Funds can be used to get students into nature to explore habitats and wildlife first hand, at one or more outdoor settings located throughout and **within Arizona**. Preference will be given to activities that:

- a. are original, curriculum creations as opposed to established programs
- b. are inquiry-based
- c. are hands-on
- d. are standards-based
- e. identify any pre and post-activities that describe how the outdoor learning experience continues beyond the individual field trip
- f. have a wildlife, wildlife habitat or outdoor recreation focus (i.e.; archery, hunting, fishing, wildlife identification, etc.)

CRITERION-2: Youth Day at the Outdoor Expo Field-Trip

Funds can be used to bring students to the Department's 2017 Outdoor Expo Youth Day which will take place on **Friday, March 24th, 2017** at the Ben Avery Facility in north Phoenix. This annual event provides numerous educational opportunities that allow students to learn about wildlife and outdoor recreation. These include hands-on activities such as archery, hunting fishing, and wilderness survival as well as numerous demonstrations and presentations. Information about the previous year's Youth Day can be found at <http://www.azgfd.gov/youthday>. Successful applicants are expected to sign-up when Expo Youth Day registration information becomes available in December or January.

CRITERION-3: Outdoor Programs at the Hirsch Conservation Education Area Field-Trip

Funds can be used to bring students to the Department's Hirsch Conservation Education Area located at the Ben Avery Facility in north Phoenix. The program will involve an indoor live animal program and an outdoor program focused on watchable wildlife. Applicants must:

- a. ideally representing an Arizona school
- b. have participating students be between grades 3 and 12
- c. have no less than 15 and no more than 35 participating students
- d. plan the field-trip to occur during the Fall (September thru December, 2017). If successful, the grant recipient must contact the Department's wildlife education coordinator Eric Proctor at eproctor@azgfd.gov as soon as possible to coordinate and schedule the date
- e. include a description of how the field trip will tie in with any pre- and post-activities instruction

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